

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-16 are pending. Claims 5 and 7 are canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include some of the limitations of Claim 6, and Claim 6 accordingly has been amended to delete such limitations.

Claims 1-4, 12-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,986,576 to Armstrong in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,886,700 to Lambert. Claim 6 was rejected as unpatentable over Armstrong and Lambert, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,696,947 to Bybee. Claim 8 was rejected as unpatentable over Armstrong and Lambert, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,675,956 to Nevin. Claims 9-11 were rejected as unpatentable over Armstrong and Lambert, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,340,069 to Niemeyer. Claim 15 was rejected as unpatentable over Armstrong and Lambert, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2006/01521775 to Clauberg.

Response to Rejections Based on Armstrong and Lambert

The Office Action rejected the previous version of Claim 6, which is similar to amended Claim 1, as unpatentable over Armstrong and Lambert, and further in view of Bybee. The Office Action stated that the combination of Armstrong and Lambert does not expressly disclose complementary neck and collar formations on one end and a complementary shaped inner blind bore on an opposite end for receiving the neck of an adjacent section. However, the Office Action asserted that Bybee discloses poles having such neck and collar and inner blind bore features, and that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the combination of Armstrong and Lambert to include such features.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of previous Claim 6 is erroneous, because a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine

Armstrong, Lambert, and Bybee to obtain the invention claimed in amended Claim 1 (previous Claim 6).

Firstly, the fields of endeavor of Armstrong, Lambert, and Bybee different significantly and have different applications, and although Lambert suggests that the collapsible structural member is useable for a variety of permanent and semi-permanent structures, only Armstrong teaches a light pole assembly.

Furthermore, Lambert and Bybee both teach collapsible temporary structures. The present application (and Armstrong) concerns a traffic light pole assembly, which is fundamentally a permanent structure. The inter-engageable sections as claimed are assembled in such a fashion as to allow for easy replacement of damaged sections (see the specification as page 8, last paragraph), but the structure nevertheless is a permanent structure.

As such, the teachings of Lambert and Bybee having to do with collapsible temporary structures would not have been considered pertinent to Armstrong's permanent light pole assembly, and therefore a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to apply Lambert's and Bybee's teachings to the permanent light pole assembly of Armstrong. Rather, any perception of such a motivation to modify Armstrong must be due only to hindsight, in light of Applicant's own specification.

In summary, Applicant's invention represents a novel and nonobvious improvement to permanent light pole assemblies of the type exemplified by Armstrong. The invention recognizes, for the first time, that such light pole assemblies can be improved in terms of ease, speed, and cost of repair (e.g., after the light pole is struck by a motor vehicle), by making the light pole from a plurality of inter-engageable sections that fit together via neck and collar formations and blind bores, together with a securing line located through the passage that extends through the sections, plus securing means movably securable on the securing line in an axial direction to secure the sections of the pole together (see specification, page 8). No prior art

related to traffic light poles remotely suggests this novel and nonobvious improvement to such poles, and the cited art relating to temporary collapsible structures would not have suggested it.

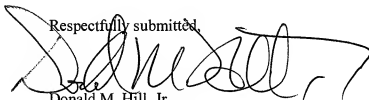
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. As such, the remaining dependent claims are also patentable.

Conclusion

Based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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